
Public Participation Plan

Prepared for
The Dow Chemical Company

Midland, Michigan

December 2005

CH2MHILL

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Public Participation Plan is to outline activities that inform residents of the Midland/Saginaw/Bay City areas ("Tri-City" areas) of activities associated with The Dow Chemical Company's (Dow's) offsite corrective actions, conducted pursuant to Condition IX B.3 (c) of Dow's Chemical Hazardous Waste Management Facility Operating License. The Public Participation Plan incorporates the goals and objectives previously established through the Communications Interim Response Activities (IRA), the 'ongoing community involvement process' and aligns with EPA's public participation guidelines.

The Public Participation Plan is intended to inform the tri-cities communities about the corrective action process, inform the communities about actions taken or contemplated, and solicit broad community input. With these objectives in mind, the overall goals of the public participation plan are to maintain a neutral and balanced public participation process and make information available to the public on a regular basis.

With approval of the 'Framework for an Agreement' (Framework) on January 20, 2005, Lt. Gov. John Cherry supported the development of a public participation process that would be broadly accepted by the community. In March and April 2005, Dow and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) jointly convened stakeholders to present the Framework and receive feedback from members of the public on how best to communicate with the public on the dioxin/furan situation going forward. Public feedback culminated in the development of a Community Involvement Process that featured town hall style meetings as a communication tool to provide information to the community, among other communication mechanisms.

The first town hall meeting was held on November 9, 2005. Per the Community Involvement Process and with the assistance of a professional facilitator, the meeting provided face-to-face interaction between residents, Dow and DEQ. It also served as a forum to provide updates on Interim Response Activities, technical issues, data gathering efforts, and obtain various community perspectives. As a major part of the Public Participation Plan, a series of quarterly town hall meetings has been scheduled for 2006.

This document outlines the communication methods, community perspectives, goals and objectives of this ongoing public participation process.

Contents

	Page
Executive Summary.....	iii
Section	
1.0 Overview of Public Participation Plan.....	1-1
1.1 Goals of Public Participation Plan.....	1-1
1.2 Contents of the Public Participation Plan	1-1
2.0 Public Participation Activities and Schedule.....	2-1
2.1 Community Meetings	2-1
2.1.1 Community Perspectives	2-1
2.1.2 Upcoming Activities	2-2
2.2 Community Information Centers.....	2-2
Appendixes	
A List of Key Contacts	
B Community Meeting Communication	
C Community Information Centers	
D Mailing List of Interested Parties	
E Media Contacts	
F MSU Issue Forum Study	

SECTION 1

Overview of Public Participation Plan

This document describes the public outreach activities that DEQ and Dow will use to inform/engage the public about offsite corrective actions in the Midland/Saginaw/Bay City areas ("Tri-City" areas).

1.1 Goals of Public Participation Plan

Consistent with the ongoing public participation process, the overall goals of this Public Participation Plan are to:

- Solicit feedback from community stakeholders (Residents, civic, educational, religious and professional leaders, associations and organizations) on various elements of Dow's off-site corrective actions
- Inform the Tri-City communities about the corrective action process
- Inform the Tri-City communities about actions to be taken or completed

Consistent with the approach of the Communications IRA, Dow will continue to:

- Provide information on the presence of and potential risks associated with exposure to dioxins/furans and practical measures that can be taken to mitigate those risks
- Provide information about the activities associated with Dow's offsite corrective action work performed under the License, including Interim Response Activities

1.2 Contents of the Public Participation Plan

This Public Participation Plan highlights community perspectives, outlines community involvement activities to be conducted during the ongoing and anticipated future corrective actions and identifies locations where information related to dioxins/furans can be found.

This plan is divided into the following major sections:

- Overview of the Public Participation Plan
- Public Participation Activities and Schedule
- Appendix

SECTION 2

Public Participation Activities and Schedule

Public Participation Activities include both written and oral communication to residents of the Tri-City area. Residents have the opportunity to meet with DEQ and Dow during community meetings and obtain informational materials related to dioxin in local libraries and township halls.

2.1 Community Meetings

2.1.1 Community Perspectives

In March and April 2005, Dow and DEQ held four meetings throughout the Tri-City area where the Framework for an Agreement between the State of Michigan and Dow was presented and the public solicited for input on how Dow and DEQ should communicate with the community. A summary of insights from the convening meetings is available on DEQ's website referenced in Appendix B. Several major themes emerged from these meetings:

- Information should be presented clearly and unambiguously.
- The DEQ and Dow should use of a variety of means to convey information to the community.
- People should have meaningful input into the decisions about how historical dioxin releases in the City of Midland, Tittabawassee and Saginaw Rivers, and the Saginaw Bay will be addressed.
- A town hall-style meeting would be an effective forum for communication.

While there was some agreement that a stakeholder committee could be a valuable tool for providing community input into the decision-making process, the public ultimately decided against forming a stakeholder committee.

Ideas that received broad public acceptance resulted in their implementation:

- Periodic town hall meetings
- Technical Information Meetings
- Professional, neutral facilitator for town hall meetings
- Meetings conducted with specific agenda
- Information sheets
- Dow and DEQ Participation in Community Group Meetings (Residents, civic, educational, religious and professional leaders, associations and organizations)

The first of these periodic town hall meetings was held on November 9, 2005. Per the Community Involvement Process and with the assistance of a professional facilitator, the meeting provided face-to-face interaction between residents, Dow and DEQ. It also served as a forum to provide updates on Interim Response Activities, technical issues, data gathering efforts, and obtain various community perspectives. A transcript of the meeting is available on DEQ's website referenced in Appendix B.

2.1.2 Upcoming Activities

In 2006, town hall meetings will be held on February 9th, May 10th, August 9th, and November 8th at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. The Horizons Center was chosen as a central, convenient location for Tri-City residents. Meetings will be held in the late afternoon and early evening for 2-3 hours. Agendas and handouts will be distributed at each meeting. Transcripts of each meeting will be posted to the DEQ website as referenced in Appendix B.

In addition to the meetings and transcripts, DEQ and Dow may independently develop and distribute information sheets providing discussions of topics of interest to the community. Dow may elect to use publicly available mailing lists to inform residents.

2.2 Community Information Centers

Community Information Centers (CICs) are located in libraries and township halls throughout the Tri-City area with the primary objectives of:

- Providing written materials to the public about dioxins and furans
- Located in high-traffic areas of each city or township in or near the Areas of Concern
- Open and accessible at convenient hours for the public

Publications are available from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at local libraries and township halls. A plan has been established to monitor the CICs at these locations and replenish documents as needed. A list of these publications is provided in Appendix C.

In addition to these publications, other relevant publications may be useful to include in the CIC. Wherever possible, DEQ and Dow will work together to produce joint publications, however, at times DEQ and Dow may independently develop and distribute information providing discussions of topics of interest to the community.

Appendix A

List of Key Contacts

APPENDIX A

List of Key Contacts

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Cheryl Howe

Senior Environmental Engineer

Waste and Hazardous Materials Division

P.O. Box 30241

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 373-9881

The Dow Chemical Company

Garret Geer

Community Outreach Leader

Michigan Operations

47 Building

Midland, MI 48667

(989) 636-9323

Appendix B
Community Meeting Communication

APPENDIX B

Community Meeting Communication

The DEQ Dioxin website is a repository for agendas, transcripts, supporting materials and handouts for the ongoing community involvement process.

www.michigan.gov/deqdioxin

Dow also maintains a website on the dioxin/furan issue.

www.dow.com/facilities/namerica/michigan/dioxin/

Appendix C

Community Information Centers

Community Information Centers

Location of Community Information Centers

Community Information Centers are located in several area libraries and township halls throughout the Tri-City area.

Hoyt Main Library

505 Janes Avenue

Saginaw, MI 48607-1236

Phone Number: (989) 755-0904

Saginaw Township Library (Zauel Library)

3100 N Center Rd

Saginaw, MI 48603-1860

Phone Number: (989) 799-2791

Thomas Township Library

8207 Shields Dr

Saginaw, MI 48609-4814

Phone Number: (989) 781-3770

Bay City Branch Library¹

708 Center Avenue

Bay City, MI 48708-5949

Phone Number: (989) 893-9566

Sage Branch Library

100 E Midland St

Bay City, MI 48706-4564

Phone Number: (989) 892-8555

Grace A. Memorial Library

1710 W. St Andrews

Midland, MI 48640-2655

Phone Number: (989) 837-3431

James Township Hall

6060 Swan Creek Rd

Saginaw, MI 48609-7033

Phone Number: (989) 781-1353

Tittabawassee Township Hall

145 S. Second St

Saginaw, MI 48623

Phone Number: (989) 695-9512

¹Bay City Branch Library will be moved in early 2006. Plans have been made to move the existing CIC to the new location.

Information at Community Information Centers

The following materials are available at the Community Information Centers.

Document	Author
2004 Michigan Family Fish Consumption Guide: Important facts to know if you eat Michigan fish	MDCH
Dioxins Fact Sheet	MDEQ MDA MDCH
Food, Farming, and Gardening Guidelines for Minimizing Dioxin Exposure	MDA
Public Health Statement for Chlorinated Dibenzo-p-dioxins (CDDs)	ATSDR
Soil Movement Advisory for Private, Public, and Commercial Projects	MDEQ MDA MDCH
Toxicological Profile for Chlorinated Dibenzo-p-dioxins (CDDs) – FAQ's Sheet	ATSDR
Supplemental Advisory Regarding Part 201 Requirements Applicable to Property Contaminated by Dioxin	MDEQ

Notes:

MDCH = Michigan Department of Community Health

MDEQ = Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

MDA = Michigan Department of Agriculture

ATSDR = Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Appendix D
Mailing List of Interested Parties

Mailing List of Interested Parties

Federal Officials and Agencies

US EPA Region 5

77 W. Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone Number: (312) 353-2000

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, Administrator
Howard Frumkin, MD, DRPH, Director
Phone Number: (404) 498-0110
(888) 422-8737

State Officials and Agencies

Governor

Governor Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone Number: (517) 373-3400

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Steve Chester, Director
525 West Allegan St
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909-7973
Phone Number: (517) 373-7917

Michigan Department of Community Health

Janet Olszewski, Director
Sixth Floor, Lewis Cass Bldg
320 South Walnut St
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone Number: (517) 373-3740

Michigan Department of Agriculture

Mitch Irwin, Director
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone Number: (800) 292-3939

Local Organizations

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative (WIN)

www.saginawbaywin.org

Chippewa Nature Center

www.chippewanaturecenter.com

Ducks Unlimited

www.ducks.org

Lone Tree Council/Tittabawassee River Watch

www.trwnews.net

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)

www.mucc.org

Little Forks Conservancy

www.littleforks.org

Ecology Center

www.ecocenter.org

Tittabawassee River: One Voice

www.tittabawassee.blogspot.com

Michigan Environmental Council

www.mecprotects.org

Midland Tomorrow

www.midlandtomorrow.org

Sierra Club

www.michigan.sierraclub.org

Midland Matters

www.midlandmatters.org

Appendix E

Media Contacts

Media Contacts

Newspapers

Bay City Times

311 Fifth St

Bay City, MI 48708-5853

Phone Number: (989) 894-9639

Jeff Kart, Reporter

jkart@bc.times.com

Midland Daily News

124 S. McDonald St

Midland, MI 48640-5161

Phone Number: (989) 839-4233

Kathie Marchlewski, Reporter

kathie@mdn.net

Saginaw News

203 S. Washington Ave

Saginaw, MI 48607-1244

Phone Number: (989) 776-9685

Jeremiah Stettler, Reporter

jstettler@thesaginawnews.com

Township Times

2089 Wieneke Rd

Saginaw, MI 48603-3684

Phone Number: (989) 799-3200

Lynn Heitkamp, Staff Writer

Detroit News

615 W. Lafayette Blvd

Detroit, MI 48226-3124

Phone Number: (313) 223-4186

Frank Donnelly, Reporter

fdonnelly@detnews.com

Detroit Free Press

600 W. Fort St

Detroit, MI 48226-3198

Phone Number: (248) 351-3295

Hugh McDiarmid, Jr., Reporter

hmcdiarmid@freepress.com

TV

WEYI TV 25 (NBC) – Flint
2225 W. Willard Rd
Clio, MI 48420-8847
Phone Number: (810) 687-1000
Lindsay Murray, Assignment Editor
lmurray@nbc25.net

WJRT TV 12 (ABC) – Flint
2302 Lapeer Rd
Flint, MI 48503-4221
Phone Number: (810) 257-2800
Jim Bleicher, News Director
bleichj@abc.com

WJRT TV 12 (ABC) – Saginaw
3121 Davenport Ave
Saginaw, MI 48602-3648
Phone Number: (989) 790-3854
Terry Kamp, Reporter
terry.r.camp@abc.com

WNEM TV-5 (CBS) – Saginaw
107 N Franklin St
Saginaw, MI 48607-1263
Phone Number: (989) 758-2044

Radio

WSGW AM (790)
1795 Tittabawassee Rd
Saginaw, MI 48604-9431
Phone Number: (989) 752-3451
Dave Mauer, Program and News Director
dave@wsgw.com

WMPX AM (1490)
P.O. Box 1689
Midland, MI 48641-1689
Phone Number: (989) 631-1490
wmpx@sbcglobal.net

WCMU FM (89.5)
1999 E. Campus Dr
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859
Phone Number: (989) 774-3530
David Nicholas, News Director
nicho1d@cmich.edu

WIOG FM (102.5), WHNN FM (96.1), and WKQZ FM (93.3)

Citadel Broadcasting Company

1740 Champagne Dr N.

Saginaw, MI 48604-9239

Phone Number: (989) 776-2100

WSAM AM (1400) and WKCQ FM (98.1)

The MacDonald Broadcasting Company

P.O. Box 1776

Saginaw, MI 48605-1776

Phone Number: (989) 752-8161

WUGN FM (99.7)

510 E. Isabella Rd

Midland, MI 48640-9014

Phone Number: (989) 631-7060

997@997.org

Other

Associated Press

Phone Number: (231) 929-4180

mtyree@ap.org

BNA – Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

Sheila Schimpf

Phone Number: (517) 203-4409

sschimpf@bna.com

Inside EPA

Avery Palmer

Phone Number: (703) 416-8541

Appendix F
MSU Issue Forum Study

MSU Issue Forum Study

Michigan State University Issue Forum Study

Although not a formal part of the DEQ/Dow process, Michigan State University, through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), designed and conducted issue forums to focus on the issues most concerning to residents in the vicinity of the Tittabawassee River. A formal EPA report is anticipated in early 2006. This Appendix presents a preliminary summary of findings.

Consisting of 53 residents in the vicinity of the Tittabawassee River, the goal of the forums was to evaluate whether the use of an issue guide in combination with facilitated small group discussion would offer a more useful approach to a decision making process.¹

In total, nine forums were held during July and August 2004 to discuss the dioxin cleanup. Among forum participants, 95% were aware of the dioxin issue. Among those who declined an invitation to attend, their awareness level was at 87% (MSU, 2005). Participants were presented with an issue guide to read containing a write-up on the issue and alternatives approaches to address it.

Common themes that emerged from the issue forums included:

- Participants wanted to see a cleaner environment.
- Cleanups should not make matters worse.
- Participants wanted to protect property rights and property values.
- Participants wanted to know the risks.
- Participants wanted to have a good economy.
- Concern for the future: beyond self-interest.
- Taking Responsibility

A formal EPA report is anticipated in early 2006.

¹http://www.nifi.org/news/news_detail.aspx?itemID=4937&catID=24